

South Carolina

Effective October 1, 2014, repeat and first-time offenders with a BAC of .15 or greater are required to install an interlock. As of December 2017, there were 1,583 interlocks installed. Between 2006 to 2018, interlocks stopped 8,725 attempts to drive drunk, including 1,743 in 2018.

Why MADD does not call the law all-offender? Judges are not required to order interlocks for all first-time offenders and an interlock is not required as a condition of a restricted license during a license suspension.

Ignition Interlock Law Overview and MADD Legislative Recommendations

How soon can an ignition interlock be installed?		Duration on ignition interlock	Legislative Recommendation
1st offense .08 to .14 BAC	Upon revocation	6 months	Require interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. Eliminate any Interlock waiting time-period.
1st offense .15 BAC plus	30 days after revocation	6 months	
Second offense	Unclear	2 years	
First refusal	Unclear	6 months	

Compliance Based Removal?

Yes

Depending on the violation, an offender's time on an interlock can be extended two to six months.

Day-for-Day Credit for early installation?

No

Legislative Recommendation

Allow for the use of ignition interlock after arrest and credit early installation of an interlock toward time ordered on an interlock upon conviction.

Do plea agreements or reductions in the original DUI charge include the requirement of an interlock?

No

Legislative Recommendation

Allow a first-time apprehended drunk driver who did not cause an injury or property damage crash, and successfully completes six continuous months on an ignition interlock and completes other court or department conditions to be granted a plea deal.

Indigent Program?

Yes

Interlock approved vendors must collect and remit monthly to the Department a \$30.00 fee from each driver required to have an interlock in their vehicle. If the person is indigent and cannot afford the cost of the device, the person may submit an affidavit of indigency to the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP) for a determination of indigency as it pertains to the cost of the device. Funds remitted to the PPP for the Ignition Interlock Device Fund also may be used by PPP to administer the program. PPP determines indigency based of the federal poverty level and other factors concerning the person's financial conditions including, but not limited to, income, debts, assets, number of dependents claimed for tax purposes, living expenses, and family situation.

Interlock user fees (not including leasing costs of the device)

Yes

Must pay \$100 to the DMV for an interlock restricted license. Must pay \$30 fee per month to PPP which is used to pay for the use of interlocks for indigent offenders and to administer the program.